

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-18

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of adjusting a search-processing load for a wireless device, comprising:

measuring the frequency in which a single reference sector chosen from a plurality of sectors is searched;

determining if the frequency in which [[a]] the single reference sector is searched is greater than a predetermined limit; and

reducing the search processing load when the frequency in which [[a]] the single reference sector is searched is greater than the predetermined limit.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising pausing processing associated with pilot searches for a predetermined time period to reduce the search processing load.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting a set of search parameters to lower the search-processing load.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising searching one of a plurality of subsets of secondary sectors each time the reference sector is searched.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising selecting a different one of the plurality of subsets of secondary sectors with each reference sector search.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising increasing the search processing load when the frequency in which ~~[[a]]~~ the single reference sector is searched is ~~[[below]]~~ less than the predetermined limit.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising selecting ~~[[a]]~~ the single reference sector.

8. (original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the reference sector is selected from a group consisting of the earliest received signal, the strongest received signal, and the most reliable signal.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the predetermined limit based on historical information.

10. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising reselecting the reference sector following a handoff.

11. (currently amended) A mobile station for use in a wireless communication system comprising a processor which determines how often a single reference sector chosen from a plurality of sectors is being searched and compares how often the single

reference sector is searched to a threshold value, wherein the processor reduces how often the single reference sector is searched when the single reference sector is searched more than the threshold value.

12. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the processor reduces how often the single reference sector is searched by pausing processing associated with pilot searches for a predetermined time period.

13. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the processor reduces how often the single reference sector is searched by adjusting a set of search parameters.

14. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the mobile station searches one of a plurality of subsets of secondary sectors each time the single reference sector is searched.

15. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 14, wherein the mobile station selects a different one of the plurality of subsets of secondary sectors with each single reference sector search.

16. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the processor increases how often the single reference sector is searched when the single reference sector is searched less than the threshold value.

17. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the processor selects ~~[[a]]~~ the single reference sector.

18. (currently amended) the mobile station of Claim 17, wherein the single reference sector is selected from a group consisting of the earliest received signal, the strongest received signal, and the most reliable signal.

19. (original) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the processor adjusts the threshold value based on historical information.

20. (currently amended) The mobile station of Claim 11, wherein the mobile station reselects the single reference sector following a handoff.